

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 036343
ORIGIN NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DOE-11 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SOE-02
SS-15 OES-07 OIC-02 /100 R

DRAFTED BY NASA/I:SDOYLE/IO/UNP:DAMACUK:SL
APPROVED BY IO/UNP:RLBARRY
L/UNA:DSTEWART
DOD/ISA:EMELANSON (INFO)
OES/ISA:IPIKUS

-----125817 111953Z /73

R 102306Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 036343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, UN

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR U.S. DELEGATION TO UN OUTER
SPACE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

1. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE FOR U.S. DEL TO THE 15TH
SESSION OF THE OUTER SPACE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUB-
COMMITTEE (STSC). PROVISIONAL AGENDA CONTAINED IN UN
DOCUMENT A/AC.105/C.1/L.100. INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE
U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD THE COSMOS 954 ISSUE FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

2. IN VIEW OF THE DEVELOPING COSMOS 954 ISSUE, INSTRUC-
TIONS RE PROVISIONAL AGENDA ITEM 1 (ADOPTION OF AGENDA)
WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTTEL.

3. THERE ARE NO INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROVISIONAL AGENDA
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ITEM 2 (STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN).

4. ITEM 3: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
THE U.S. DELEGATION SHOULD REVIEW SIGNIFICANT SPACE
ACTIVITIES OF THE PAST YEAR, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE
TO U.S. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND TO DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S.
SPACE PROGRAMS THAT HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR BROADENING
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND CONTRIBUTING TO ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT. REMARKS SHOULD CONVEY U.S. WILLINGNESS

TO COOPERATE, GOOD WILL, FLEXIBILITY, AND AN INTEREST IN RESULTS, PARTICULARLY IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

THE STATEMENT SHOULD BE ALONG THE LINES OF PREVIOUS YEARS' OPENING STATEMENTS AND DRAW ON THE DRAFT MATERIALS PREPARED IN WASHINGTON FOR THIS PURPOSE. (NASA WILL PROVIDE A DRAFT SUMMARY OF THE 1977 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS.) IT MAY CONCLUDE WITH PRELIMINARY U.S. REMARKS ON THE AGENDA ITEMS BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

5. ITEM 4: REMOTE SENSING

THE OPENING STATEMENT WILL HAVE MADE REFERENCE TO THE UNEXPECTED LONGEVITY OF LANDSAT 1, THE CONTINUITY OF MATERIAL BEING PROVIDED TO FOREIGN USERS OF LANDSAT DATA, THE NEW GROUND STATIONS, THE REGIONAL CENTERS, AND TO THE PARAGRAPHS OF THE 1977 STSC REPORT THAT DESCRIBE LANDSAT ACTIVITIES (PARAS 45, 46, 57, 79).

A. SPATIAL RESOLUTION

THE COSPAR REPORT ON CHARACTERISTICS AND CAPABILITIES OF SENSORS (A/AC.105/204) WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE SECRETARIAT, AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE STSC AND OSC, TO ASSESS THE UTILITY OF USING SPATIAL RESOLUTION
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OR OTHER TECHNICAL CRITERIA FOR PURPOSES OF ESTABLISHING CONTROLS ON DISSEMINATION OF REMOTELY SENSED DATA.

IN EXPLAINING WHY NO ONE DEFINITION OF SPATIAL RESOLUTION APPLIES TO ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, THE REPORT WEAKENS THE SUPPOSITION THAT REMOTELY SENSED DATA COULD BE DISSEMINATED OR WITHHELD ACCORDING TO WHETHER THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROPRIATE TO THE APPLICATIONS FOR WHICH THE DATA WERE INTENDED.

THE U.S. IS GENERALLY OPPOSED TO RESTRICTIONS ON THE DISSEMINATION OF REMOTELY SENSED DATA BUT HAS NOT DETERMINED THAT SOME THRESHOLD OF RESOLUTION FOR DISSEMINATION WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE IN THE FUTURE.

THE DELEGATION SHOULD POINT OUT THE NON-CONCLUSIVE NATURE OF THE STUDY RESULTS AND MAY COMMENT THAT THE STUDY SEEMS TO BE A FULL AND INFORMATIVE TREATMENT OF THE SUBJECT, DESERVING THOROUGH DISCUSSION.

B. COORDINATING ROLE OF THE UN

THE FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE COORDINATING ROLE FOR THE UN (A/AC.105/154/ADD.2) IS DIVIDED IN TWO PARTS. THE FIRST PART RECOMMENDS A PANEL OF EXPERTS TO ENCOURAGE COMPATIBILITY AND COMPLEMENTARITY OF EXISTING AND

FUTURE REMOTE SENSING SYSTEMS OF MEMBER STATES. THE

EXPERTS WOULD BE DRAWN FROM LAUNCHING AGENCIES, GROUND STATION OPERATORS, AND USER AGENCIES. BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL SPACE COOPERATION WOULD REMAIN OUTSIDE THE PANEL'S PURVIEW. THE STUDY CLAIMS THAT THE PANEL'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE MINIMAL.

THE SECOND PART OF THE STUDY POINTS TO OVERALL COORDINATION OF SPACE ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UN BY THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION
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(ACC). THE ACC IS TO COORDINATE THE FAO AND CNRET CENTERS, AND THE SPACE ACTIVITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA, THEMSELVES COORDINATED BY THE AFRICAN REMOTE SENSING COUNCIL.

THE DELEGATION SHOULD EXPRESS INTEREST AND SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE ACC, BUT NOT FOR THE PROPOSED PANEL OF EXPERTS. AN OPERATIONAL UN ROLE WOULD HAVE THE POTENTIAL OF INTERFERING WITH NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROGRAMS. IT WOULD LIKELY URGE PROGRAMS IN BEING TO ADAPT THEMSELVES TO CONCEPTS BEING TALKED ABOUT IN THE ABSTRACT.

THE DELEGATION SHOULD SUPPORT CRITICISM OF THE PANEL'S INDEPENDENT ROLE, AND SUGGEST THAT THESE EXPERTS WOULD PERHAPS BE MORE EFFECTIVE WORKING DIRECTLY FOR THE USER COMMUNITIES THEY WISH TO SERVE. IT WAS NEVER INTENDED THAT THE UN SHOULD HAVE AN OPERATIONAL ROLE IN REMOTE SENSING. A PERMANENT PANEL OF EXPERTS WOULD TEND TO ARROGATE THE FUNCTIONS OF THE STSC ITSELF.

COORDINATION BETWEEN REMOTE SENSING SYSTEMS IS ALREADY BEING CONDUCTED THROUGH BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS.

REGIONAL CENTERS, NOT THE UN, SHOULD BE THE FOCUS OF EFFORTS TO MATCH USER NEEDS WITH REMOTE SENSING CAPABILITIES AND FORMAT.

IF A STRONG CONSENSUS IN SUPPORT OF THE PANEL SHOULD APPEAR TO BE DEVELOPING, THE DELEGATION SHOULD RAISE THE ISSUES OF PROLIFERATING "NO-ACTION" BODIES, ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, AND DUPLICATION OF EFFORT, AND AS A
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LAST RESORT, SEEK A STRUCTURE FOR THE PANEL THAT WOULD ENSURE U.S. REPRESENTATION, MINIMIZING OR ELIMINATING FROM ITS CHARTER ANY POSSIBLE DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY AFFECTING OPERATING SYSTEMS. FINALLY, THE U.S.

DELEGATION MAY RESERVE THE U.S. POSITION ON THE NEED FOR OR ROLES OF THE PANEL. THE DELEGATION SHOULD SEEK SUPPORT FOR THIS POSITION AMONG LIKE-MINDED DELEGATIONS.

C. DETECTING AND MONITORING POLLUTION

A U.S. VIEW OF THIS SUBJECT WAS GIVEN IN A/AC.105/202/

ADD.1. THE DELEGATION SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THE SUBJECT FOR THE STSC, AND STRESS THE NEED TO ENCOURAGE INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON EXISTING ACTIVITIES TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AND TO FACILITATE THE BROADEST DISSEMINATION OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION.

6. ITEM 5: REVIEW OF THE UN PROGRAM ON SPACE APPLICATIONS

IN THE PAST THIS ITEM HAS INVOLVED ONLY COMMENTING ON THE REPORT OF THE EXPERT ON SPACE APPLICATIONS, AND REPORTS OF INDIVIDUAL SEMINARS.

AS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE UN PROGRAM FOR THE FUTURE (A/AC.105/C.1/L.101), THE DELEGATION SHOULD SUPPORT CRITICISM OF UNNECESSARY EXPENDITURE.

7. ITEM 6: A POSSIBLE UN CONFERENCE ON OUTER SPACE.

A STSC WORKING PARTY HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE OSC TO REVIEW COMMENTS OF MEMBER STATES ON SUGGESTIONS AND VIEWS FOR THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE (A/AC.105/142/ADD.9). THE OSC RECOMMENDED THAT THE 15TH SESSION OF THE STSC BE EXTENDED, IF NECESSARY, TO CONSIDER THE WORKING PARTY'S REVIEW.

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THE U.S. POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED FROM WHAT WAS REPRODUCED IN UN DOCUMENT A/AC.105/142/ADD.3 OF 9 JUNE 1975. THE DELEGATION SHOULD STATE THAT IT CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER THERE HAS BEEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO EVALUATE THE RESULTS OF THE 1979 UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT.

THE DELEGATION SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THERE IS STILL NO CONSENSUS ON HOLDING A UN CONFERENCE ON OUTER SPACE, NOR IS THERE WIDESPREAD AGREEMENT ON ITS OBJECTIVES.

THE DELEGATION SHOULD SUPPORT OPPOSITION TO A RECOMMENDATION TO OSC FOR A SPACE CONFERENCE, POINTING OUT THAT THE RESOURCES OF THE UN ARE ALREADY STRAINED, AND THE UNSCTD IS SURE TO ADDRESS SPACE APPLICATIONS

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT. IN

ADDITION, MANY OTHER MULTILATERAL FORUMS ADDRESS THESE MATTERS ON A REGULAR BASIS, (E.G., COSPAR, IAF) AND THE UN SHOULD AVOID DUPLICATING OR REPEATING SUCH EFFORTS. DELEGATION SHOULD SEEK SUPPORT FOR THIS POSITION AMONG LIKE-MINDED DELEGATIONS.

HOWEVER, SHOULD A CONSENSUS DEVELOP IN THE WORKING PARTY FOR THE CONVENING OF SUCH A CONFERENCE, DELEGATION SHOULD AVOID BEING PLACED IN AN ISOLATED POSITION.

8. ITEM 7: PHYSICAL NATURE AND TECHNICAL ATTRIBUTES OF THE GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT.
THE U.S. POSITION ON THE CLAIMS OF EQUATORIAL COUNTRIES TO SOVEREIGNTY OVER GSO IS OUTLINED IN STATE 282409
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OF NOVEMBER 25, 1977. DEL MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING POINTS IN DISCUSSING GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT:

A. GSO IS BUT ONE OF AN INFINITE NUMBER OF ORBITS INTO WHICH SATELLITES CAN BE PLACED AND ITS PARTICULAR CHARACTERISTICS ARE FUNCTIONS OF BOTH THE TOTAL GRAVITATIONAL FIELD OF THE EARTH AND THE ROTATION OF THE WHOLE EARTH.

B. THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GSO AND ANY UNDERLYING COUNTRY. ENTRY INTO GSO CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH LAUNCH FROM ANY COUNTRY ON EARTH; THE ENERGY REQUIREMENTS FOR INSERTION INTO GSO VARY WITH PAYLOAD MASS AND LATITUDE OF LAUNCH AMONG OTHER FACTORS. THE ORBIT IS COMPLETELY UNAFFECTED BY NATIONAL BOUNDARIES ON THE EARTH.

C. BECAUSE OF PERTURBATIVE EFFECTS ARISING FROM THE ACTIONS OF THE SUN, MOON AND LARGE PLANETS, AS WELL AS FROM ASYMMETRIES IN THE EARTH'S MASS DISTRIBUTION, THE GSO IS NOT ONE IN WHICH A SATELLITE WILL REMAIN STEADY INDEFINITELY. IT IS ACHIEVABLE ONLY TO AN APPROXIMATION AND SATELLITES REQUIRE ADJUSTMENT MANEUVERS TO MAINTAIN A STEADY GSO.

D. GIVEN THE EARTH'S MASS AND ROTATION RATE, THE GSO IS ROUGHLY 22,300 MILES ABOVE THE EARTH'S SURFACE. IT IS THEREFORE FAR BEYOND THE ALTITUDES OF MOST SATELLITES CURRENTLY IN ORBIT OR PLANNED.

E. REGARDLESS OF THE ABSENCE OF ANY SPECIFIC AGREED-UPON DEFINITION OR DELIMITATION OF OUTER SPACE, THERE IS NO TECHNICAL OR LEGAL BASIS FOR CONSIDERING THE GSO

NOT TO LIE IN OUTER SPACE. THEREFORE, ITS USE MUST BE GUIDED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE 1976 OUTER SPACE TREATY.

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F. THERE IS NO BASIS WITHIN THE 1976 TREATY FOR TREATING GSOS DIFFERENTLY FROM ANY OTHER ORBITS. FURTHERMORE, THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE II OF THE TREATY PRECLUDE ANY CLAIMS OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY OVER GSOS OR PORTIONS THEREOF.

G. GSOS WERE UNDERSTOOD AND UTILIZED BEFORE AND DURING THE NEGOTIATION OF THE 1976 TREATY AND IT IS CLEAR THAT NO DISTINCTION WAS INTENDED TO BE DRAWN NOR ANY SPECIAL TERMS INTENDED TO APPLY TO GSOS.

A STUDY PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT'S OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS DIVISION GIVES THE SCIENTIFIC PARAMETERS OF THE GSO, DESCRIBES THE POSSIBLE USES OF GEOSTATIONARY SATELLITES, DISCUSSES THE LOW LIKELIHOOD OF COLLISIONS, AND LISTS THE SATELLITES NOW IN, OR PLANNED FOR GSO (A/AC.105/203). THE STUDY BRINGS OUT SEVERAL FACTORS USED IN SUPPORT OF THE U.S. POSITION: THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES UTILIZING GSO, THE BENEFITS OF GSO TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, THE NEED TO MANEUVER SATELLITES TO KEEP THEM IN GSO.

THE DELEGATION SHOULD NOTE THIS STUDY AND NOT OBJECT TO FURTHER DISCUSSION OF TECHNICAL ASPECTS. RESULTS OF THE STUDY SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF INTERESTED MEMBER STATES AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION IN CONNECTION WITH FUTURE PROGRAMS AND PLANNING.

9. ITEM 8: COORDINATION OF SPACE ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM
A REVIEW OF THESE ACTIVITIES WAS APPROVED BY THE ACC
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SUBCOMMITTEE AT ITS SECOND SESSION (A/AC.105/201).
(THIS IS THE SAME SUBJECT ADDRESSED IN THE SECOND PART OF THE STUDY DISCUSSED IN ITEM 4B.) THE DELEGATION MAY COMMENT ON THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED IN THE REVIEW, AS APPROPRIATE. THE REVIEW DOES NOT REFER TO MECHANISMS OF COORDINATION.

10. ITEM 9: OTHER MATTERS
THE SUBJECT TO BE DEALT WITH UNDER THIS AGENDA ITEM ARE:
-- MESSAGES TO EXTRATERRESTRIAL CIVILIZATIONS
-- PROGRESS OF SPACE RESEARCH 1976-77 (COSPAR)
-- 1977 HIGHLIGHTS IN SPACE TECHNOLOGY (IAF)
-- REVIEW OF 1976 SPACE ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE PROJECTS AT THUMBA
-- ITU'S 16TH REPORT ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SPACE
-- ITU'S 17TH REPORT ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SPACE
-- ESCAP REPORTS ON REMOTE SENSING

THE DELEGATION MAY COMMENT AS APPROPRIATE.

11. CONTINGENCY INSTRUCTIONS
DELIMITATION ISSUE - EQUATORIAL STATES CLAIMING THAT
THEIR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY EXTENDS TO GEOSTATIONARY
ORBITS POINT TO THE LACK OF AN AGREED DEFINITION OR
DELIMITATION OF OUTER SPACE. THIS SUBJECT RECEIVED
MINIMAL ATTENTION AT THE 1977 STSC AND LSC MEETINGS.
THE STSC IN 1976 CONSIDERED TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF DEFINI-
TION QUESTION AND COULD NOT AGREE ON ANY BOUNDARY BASED
ONLY ON TECHNICAL FACTORS. STSC ASKED FOR GUIDANCE FROM
LSC ON PURPOSES TO BE SERVED BY SUCH A DEFINITION. AS
YET NO SUCH GUIDANCE HAS BEEN GIVEN. IN THE PAST, THE
U.S. HAS EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM WITH RESPECT TO THE NEED
FOR DEFINITION OF DELIMITATION, URGING THAT THE OSC
AND ITS SUBCOMMITTEES SHOULD FOCUS ON PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS
TO ACTUAL PROBLEMS. IF THE ISSUE ARISES, DEL MAY RESTATE
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THIS POSITION, BUT SHOULD NOT OPPOSE RECOMMENDATION
THAT SUCH GUIDANCE BE PROVIDED TO STSC.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE036343
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NASA/I:SDOYLE/IO/UNP:DAMACUK:SL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780064-1077
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802120/baaafbut.tel
Line Count: 358
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 959cb5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NASA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3475318
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 970828
Subject: GUIDANCE FOR U.S. DELEGATION TO UN OUTER SPACE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE
TAGS: TSPA, UN, US, OUTER SPACE SUBCOMMITTEE
To: USUN N Y INFO MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/959cb5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014